

SITUATION REPORT



File No: SR-0002
Date/Time: 2022-01-29 at 0900 hours
Period Covered: 1600 hours 2022-01-28 to 0900 hours 2022-01-29

ISSUE: “FREEDOM CONVOY” OPPOSING VACCINATION MANDATES AT NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION (NCR)

Background

- A nationwide campaign has been organized amongst anti-mandate truckers to slow down highway traffic across Canada and to culminate in demonstrations at Parliament Hill in Ottawa, Ontario. The campaign has been organized in response to the federal mandate that took effect January 15, 2022 requiring all commercial truck drivers entering Canada to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19.
- The noted convoys commenced January 23, 2022, with activity planned to culminate at Parliament Hill, Ottawa today, January 29, 2022. Some convoy organizers have stated an intent to remain at Parliament Hill until the Federal government concedes to repeal all COVID-19 public health restrictions and mandates. Organizers have indicated they are planning to stage disruptions that may gridlock areas around Parliament buildings and parts of Ottawa. There is no expressed departure date for participants or a clear timing when actions may end.
- At this juncture, there is no concrete, specific, or credible threat with regard to the Freedom Convoy protest. However, the possibility that a lone actor or group of individuals could enact a physical threat with little or no warning cannot be excluded.
- Convoy organizers have repeatedly stated the intention to conduct a lawful protest and have advised participants to sign a Code of Conduct articulating the appropriate behaviour for the convoy and protest. However, available information suggests that some elements within the convoy, or supporting the convoy, could engage in actions that pose a public safety threat. Convoy organizers will almost certainly have limited ability to influence or control the behaviour of some convoy participants and protest attendees.

Current Information:

- **No speeches in the Parliament Hill area at this time.**
- **Minimal foot traffic at Parliament Hill. No crowd yet.**
- **No major road blocks.**
- **Roadway in front of Parliament Hill is full and has been since early Friday afternoon.**

MEDIUM SENSITIVITY

- Large number of protestors parked in farmer's field in Vars, with a shuttle transporting participants.
- Sir John A McDonald Parkway only has a small number of vehicles parked on it. Several km of roadway still available.
- TPS to deploy 8 mounted units to exercise horses.
- Implicated partners are engaged as required. Local authorities have warned drivers to expect significant delays and traffic to the Ottawa downtown core which could create challenges accessing some of the federal buildings in that area.
- 600 plus people attended Arnprior last night awaiting arrival of Cochrane, Huntsville and Sault Ste. Marie convoys. Convoy participants were peaceful and cooperative. Supporters (200-300) attended both sides of Hwy 17 in Renfrew area.
- A convoy of approximately 1,000 participants is expected to arrive in Hawkesbury from Quebec this morning. The group will then Travel to Ottawa. There is a potential for a walking contingent coming from Quebec of about 400 people.
- Cornwall Police have a traffic plan in place and are expecting heavy traffic disruption on routes 138 & 417 into Ottawa. Cornwall Police will be closing down Boundary Road at Marleau, and officers were staged along Boundary Road North to Headline Road. This is to facilitate safe uninterrupted travel. Additional officers will be staged at the 401 to minimize safety concerns.
- Industries on Boundary Road (numerous logistic facilities) have been advised that their trucks will not have access to the area during the shutdown. This is coordinated with the City of Cornwall to minimize service disruptions. Approximately 80-100 trucks are estimated and there is no indication that trucks will be crossing the border in Cornwall from the U.S. to join the protest.

Actions:

- Updates continue to be provided through provincial-wide joint intelligence groups with input from PoJs across the country. The Ontario Provincial Police is coordinating information and awareness to potentially affected jurisdictions.
- The Government Operations Centre (GOC) will continue to monitor the demonstration to identify and evaluate further potential impacts to Critical Infrastructure.
- City of Ottawa EOC has been activated virtually and is coordinating with the National Capital Regional Command Centre (NCRCC). An EMO Field Officer is virtually deployed to Ottawa EOC to maintain situational awareness.

MEDIUM SENSITIVITY

- OPP and POJ continue to provide public messaging advising of traffic disruptions associated with the convoy.
- MTO are working with OPP and are providing traffic control and incident management as requested. Ministry of Transportation maintenance contractors are on alert to provide support as needed. MTO Officers will assist as usual practice if requested by OPP.